



MASSWILDLIFE

MASSACHUSETTS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

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Massachusetts Division
of Fisheries & Wildlife
Hunter Education
Program Newsletter

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CORRECTIONS TO PRINTED 2019 GUIDE

NOTICE: There are some hunting season date errors in the printed 2019 Fishing and Hunting Guide involving the bear, snowshoe hare, and furbearer seasons.

Despite several reviews prior to publishing, there are a number of hunting **season date errors** in the printed version of the 2019 Guide to Freshwater Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Laws **involving black bear, snowshoe hare, and furbearer hunting seasons.** While all digital versions of the Guide have been corrected, hard-copy versions distributed at education classes, state offices, retailers, and other license vendors contain hunting season date errors.

Since we use the printed Guide extensively in our classes we created a corrected version of page 52 for our use. This one-page document should be distributed to all students and

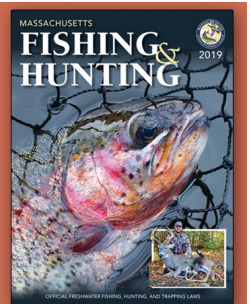
used to replace page 52 in the 2019 guide.

We will provide enough copies of the corrected page for your classes. Look for them in the box of course materials for your class. Also, please let the students know that the corrected digital versions are available online at Mass.gov/hunting-season-corrections.

We apologize for this error and inconvenience and appreciate your help disseminating the correct information.

If you have questions, please contact us at (508) 389-7820.

NOTICE!
ERRORS



MASSWILDLIFE SEEKS FEEDBACK

MassWildlife is considering changes to turkey hunting regulations affecting bag limits, fall season dates, and the Youth Hunt. The public is invited to provide feedback at two upcoming information sessions.

At the request of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board and in response to an

appeal submitted by the National Wild Turkey Federation, MassWildlife initiated a review of current wild turkey hunting regulations to evaluate potential changes that would expand hunting opportunities and participation. Turkeys are abundant across the state and harvest numbers have been stable in recent years. All data
(continued page 3)

MHEP WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER



Tabatha Hawkins, new Hunter Education Specialist, hiking in New Hampshire, on top of Mount Hight.

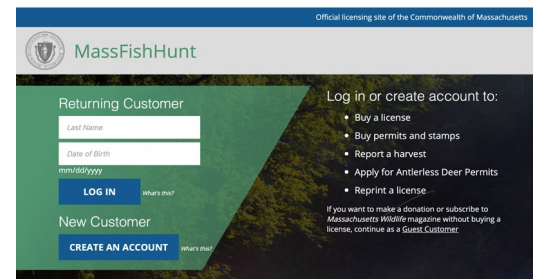
Tabatha Hawkins joined the MassWildlife Hunter Education team in mid-December 2018, as our newest Hunter Education and Outdoor Skills Specialist. She grew up in a hunting family in rural Pennsylvania and Maine and graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in Wildlife Ecology with a concentration in conservation biology. Her experience includes working on projects involving American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) and barn owls (*Tyto alba*) and, while she enjoys research, her real passion is teaching. She has spent many seasons teaching experiential environmental education in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and a memorable summer leading a program in Tsinan, Japan. Outside of work, she might be pursuing any number of activities including upland bird hunting, fly fishing, hiking, or ballroom dancing. Perhaps most important, she is a self-proclaimed nerd and a lover of puns.

MASSFISHHUNT HAS A NEW LOOK

Buying your fishing and hunting license just got easier!

If you're using a desktop computer to access MassFishHunt, you'll see a new homepage. The updated homepage includes a streamlined login process for returning and new customers and expanded content to help you enjoy the outdoors in Massachusetts. A similar update for mobile users is coming soon.

[MassFishHunt](#) is the official licensing site of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. You can use the system to buy licenses, permits, and stamps for freshwater fishing, recreational saltwater fishing, hunting, and trapping. If you still need to purchase your 2019 license or permit, it's the perfect time—[go to MassFishHunt now](#).



MASSWILDLIFE SEEKS FEEDBACK (CONTINUED)

indicate turkey populations will remain robust statewide with increased harvest limits and longer harvest seasons. MassWildlife staff suggested several preliminary proposals and is hosting two informational meetings to give the public an opportunity to offer feedback. MassWildlife Turkey Biologist Dave Scarpitti will make a short presentation on the turkey hunting review and regulation proposals, followed by a Q&A session for the public. The meeting dates are:

- **Thursday, February 7** at 6 p.m. at MassWildlife Field Headquarters (1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581).
- **Wednesday, February 13** at 6:30 p.m. at the Palmer Public Library (1455 N. Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069).

Anyone unable to attend an informational meeting may comment on the changes by using an online Turkey Regulation Feedback Form or by mailing comments to: Turkey Season Feedback, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Public feedback will be considered by MassWildlife staff and provided to the Fisheries and Wildlife Board. Please note that if changes are endorsed by the Board, a formal public hearing and public comment period will be scheduled and publicized.

Suggested Preliminary Turkey Hunting Regulation Changes

- **Increase the annual limit to three birds (2 bearded turkeys in the spring and 1 of either sex in the fall).** The proposed change would allow all hunters to take two bearded birds in the spring and an additional turkey of either sex in the fall, increasing the annual bag limit to three birds.
- **Increase the daily bag limit to two per day during the spring season.**
- **Expand the fall season (ARCHERY ONLY) to coincide with the archery deer season.** The proposed change would allow turkey hunters to harvest turkeys with archery equipment during the entire duration of the archery deer season (6–8 weeks depending on zone).

Turkey hunters would continue to be permitted to use shotgun, muzzleloader, or archery equipment during the traditional 2-week season from the second to last Monday in October through the second Saturday thereafter.

Youth Turkey Hunt Hours and Permits

- **Expand Youth Day turkey hunting hours to ½ hour before sunrise until 5 p.m.** The Youth Turkey Hunt Day occurs on only a single day the Saturday before the last Monday in April. Currently, hunting hours begin one half hour before sunrise and end at noon, providing a limited window of opportunity for young adult hunters.
- **Allow Youth Turkey permits issued to youth aged 12–14 to be used in the fall turkey hunting season.** At this time, youth, 12–14 years old must successfully complete the mandatory turkey hunt seminar to participate in the mentored Youth turkey hunt. They are issued a free Youth Turkey Permit with two turkey tags and must always hunt with a licensed adult hunter. These tags are currently valid for the day of the Youth turkey hunt and the regular spring turkey hunting season. This change will provide additional opportunity for young hunters who have earned a Youth Turkey Permit to use their own tag during the fall season by providing them with 2 spring tags and 1 fall tag. (Note: Under current regulations, youth aged 15–17 are required to have their own hunting license and turkey permit, which already allows them to hunt in the spring or fall seasons.)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 7: Turkey Hunting Regulation Informational Meeting, Westborough – MassWildlife is considering changes to turkey hunting regulations affecting bag limits, fall season dates, and the Youth Hunt. This informational meeting is February 7 at MassWildlife Field Headquarters (1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough) at 6 p.m.

February 8 – Forest & Wildlife Habitat Management Tour, Myles Standish State Forest, South Carver -- Join staff from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) on a tour from 3 – 4:30 PM of a planned 211-acre forest management operation at Myles Standish State Forest. Meet at the South Regional Headquarters at **194 Cranberry Rd in South Carver**. The tour will be conducted rain, snow or shine. Attendees are encouraged to dress for the weather and to wear sturdy shoes or boots. For additional information contact William Hill, Forestry Management Program Supervisor, at 413-545-3891.

February 9: Family Ice Fishing Festival, Chesterfield – This is a free learn to ice fish event at Scout Pond – Tolgy Wood (the old Chesterfield Scout Reservation at Sugar Hill Road in Chesterfield) from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your ice fishing equipment, or borrow ours; equipment and bait will be available on a first come, first served basis. This event is in cooperation with the Western Massachusetts Boy Scout Council. *Open to the public, **no pre-registration required**. For more information contact Jim Lagacy at jim.lagacy@mass.gov or (508) 389-6309. ***PLEASE NOTE: Less than 6" of safe ice, rain, or heavy snow will cancel this event.**

February 9: Family Ice Fishing Festival, Oxford – This is a free, non-competitive, family friendly, learn to ice fish event at Hodges Village Dam (Augettaback Pond at 30 Howarth Rd., Oxford), 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Bring your ice fishing equipment, or borrow ours; limited equipment and

bait will be provided. This event is in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffumville Lake and the Charlton Conservation Department. *Open to the public, **no pre-registration required**. For more information contact Jim Lagacy at jim.lagacy@mass.gov or (508) 389-6309.

***PLEASE NOTE: Less than 6" of safe ice, rain, or heavy snow will cancel this event.**

February 10: MacGyver "Ed" Peary Ice Fishing Derby, Billerica – Join MassWildlife's Angler Education Program and the Billerica Recreation Department at Nuttings Lake in Billerica, 7 a.m.–2 p.m. The derby is open to the public and registration is on-site the day of the event; the registration fee is a gift for a child so that everyone goes home with a prize. Please RSVP to (978) 987-3487 the Billerica Recreation Department to let them know you plan to attend and to check if there is safe ice. Parking will be available at Micozzi Beach in Billerica – enter lake through Turnpike Market parking lot. If you have extra ice traps (tip-ups), please bring them to share. Bait will be available onsite for a minimum charge, but please bring a bait bucket. For more information call the Billerica Rec at (978) 671-0921.

February 13: Turkey Hunting Regulation Informational Meeting, Palmer – MassWildlife is considering changes to turkey hunting regulations affecting bag limits, fall season dates, and the Youth Hunt. This informational meeting is February 13 at the Palmer Public Library (1455 N. Main Street, Palmer) at 6:30 p.m.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provides funding to conserve and manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations; funding is derived from a portion of hunting and fishing equipment sales.

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1 Rabbit Hill Road | Westborough, MA 01581 | mass.gov/masswildlife